

DRUG AND ALCOHOL DETOXIFICATION SERVICES, NORTH WEST

1452. Mr L. Graham to the Minister for Health

I refer to the announcement made in December 2002, that a home-based drug and alcohol detoxification service has been expanded with support from the State Government and St John of God Health Care to cater for more people throughout the metropolitan area, and ask –

- (a) how much is to be spent on similar programs in the North West of the State;
- (b) in which towns and communities will the funds be spent;
- (c) who will be responsible for administering the funds; and
- (d) when will the programs commence operation in each town referred to above?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (a) A home-based drug and alcohol detoxification service is not practical for the North-West given the size of the region and dispersed population.

Programs currently underway supporting withdrawal management in the North West include the development of the capacity of General Practitioners and hospital emergency department staff to respond to alcohol and drug problems, including managing withdrawal. Strategies are also underway to expand the capacity to engage in pharmacotherapies for opioid dependence. Other programs that support alcohol and drug withdrawal management include the Sobering Up Centres in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions, the Community Drug Service Teams in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions and the Aboriginal traineeship program which commenced late in April 2003. The Aboriginal traineeship program is funded and managed by the Drug and Alcohol Office to build the capacity of the services to respond to the needs of the indigenous community.

- (b) The General Practitioners and Aboriginal traineeship programs recently commenced in Hedland and are also being negotiated for the Kimberley. The Pilbara and Kimberley Community Drug Service Teams provide services throughout the two regions. There are 8 Sobering Up Centres located in major townships throughout the North West.
- (c) All programs are funded by the Drug and Alcohol Office. Management arrangements vary depending on contractual specifications and arrangements.
- (d) All programs have commenced. The General Practitioners program is currently being negotiated for the Kimberley.